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### MANCHESTER GUARDIAN.

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# A WAR-TIME TRAGEDY IN THE NETHERLANDS

### How Allied Agents Were Captured

From a Special Correspondent

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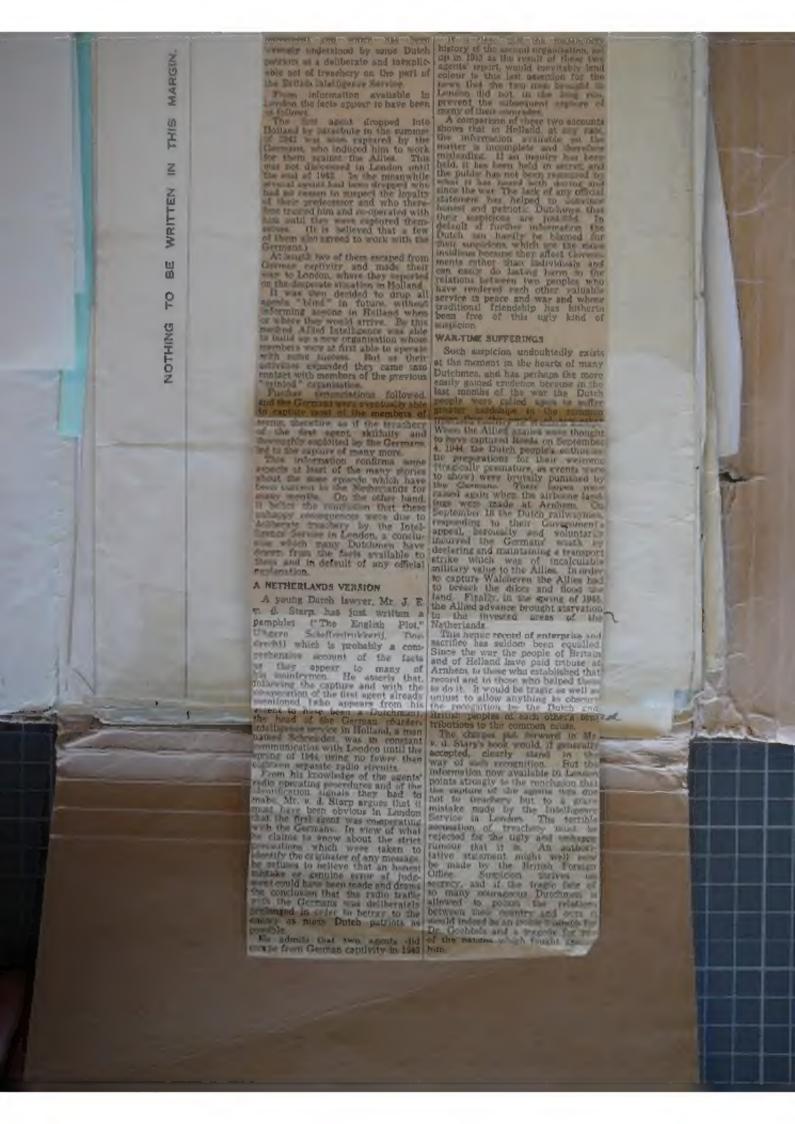
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Prom a Special Correspondent

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Mr. Street should see Sir P. Nichols' letter as soon as possible.

If we sutherised the Ambassador to issue a statement along the lines that he suggeste, we should consider, and if possible decide now, how far we shall be prepared to amplify it if it provokes an outery in Holland.

We should, I think, swold the impression that we are reluctant to say snything about the "Englandspiel", but will do so if pressed sufficiently strongly. Sir P. Nichole' suggested statementaths "high morel line" suggested in Mr. Shuckburgh's letter of March 59th. It refutes the two main allegations contained in "Het Englandspiel":

- (a) That there was treachery on the British side.
- (b) That there was a diabolical plot to exterminate Dutch patriots.

Rowever, In view of the complications of the case, a statement such as this, although true, is not convincing. Van der Wells is clearly in a position to give evidence, which the Dutch would find very difficult to reconcile with such a statement. We should then be faced with the problem of whether or not to amplify it. As we should not be able to do so without disclosing details which we wish to conceal, we should, I think, be prepared to ride out any storms that might develop, and withstand any pressure to give detailed explanations. We should be on record as having denied the allegations, and we should be able to rely on our performance during the war, and on the good sense of the Dutch to prevent the baldness of the statement from prejudicing Dutch sentiment against us.

On balance, therefore, I think we should authorise Bir. P. Nichola to issue a statement along the lines which he suggests. It would, I think, be a mistake to use the German expression "Englandspiel" in a British statement. It might be thought to confer a validity to the whole story, which we do not of course recognise. I would suggest, therefore, that the words "so-called" should be inserted before each reference to the "Englandspiel" in Sir P. Nichols' draft. Otherwise, it seems adequate.

Mr. Street will no doubt say whether it will be possible to give Mr. Baker any further information from S.C.E. records. He will also, I am sure, wish to consider what reply should be returned to the Dutch, should they ask for Enjor Bingham to appear before the enquiry.

(R.H. Mason) 9th April, 1949

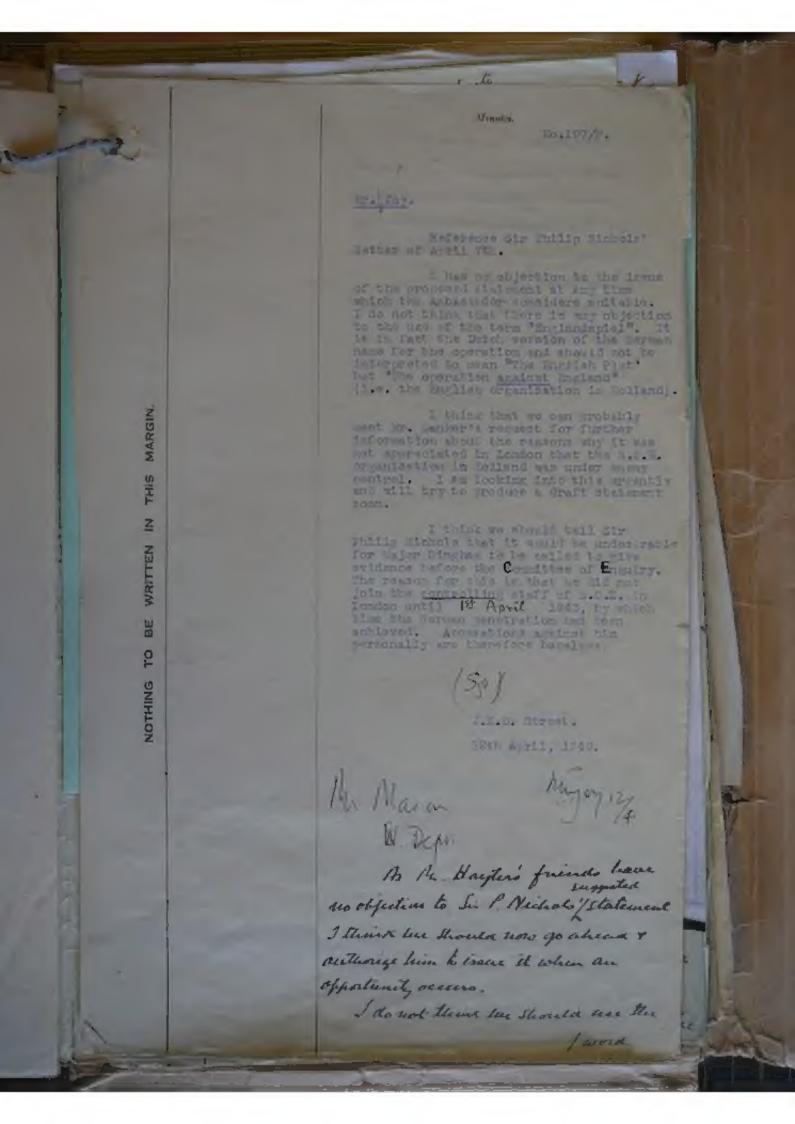
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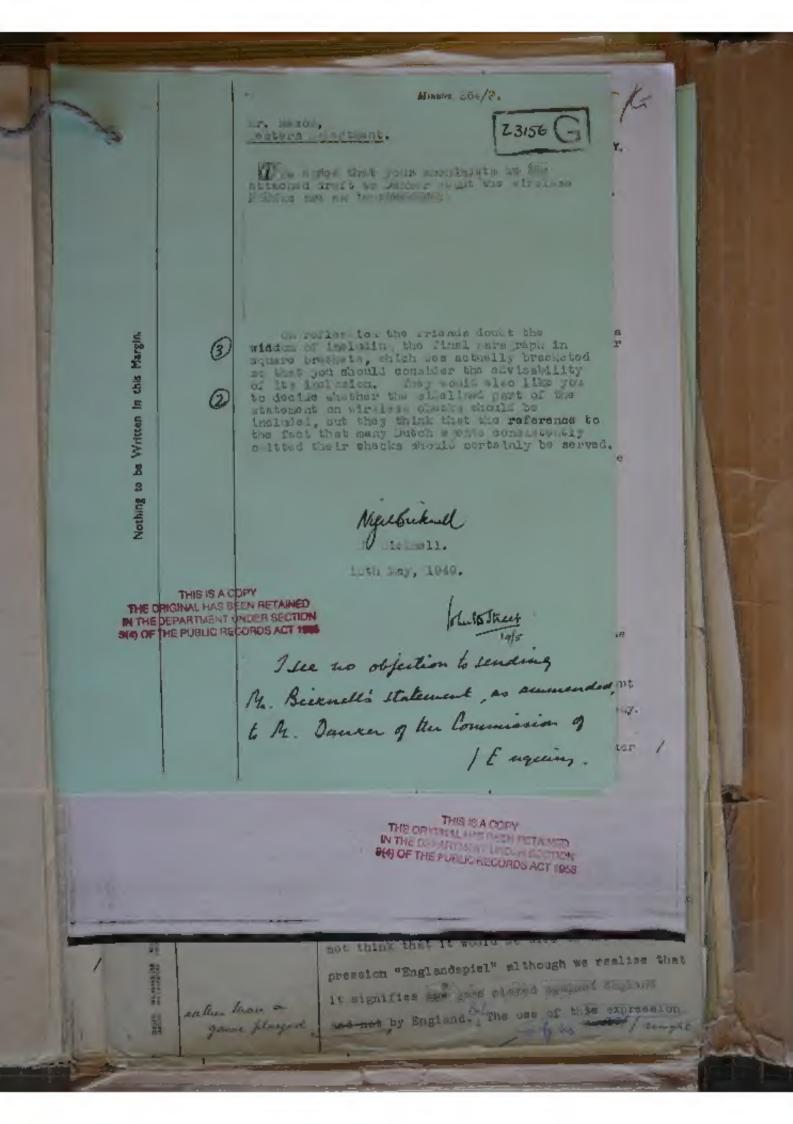
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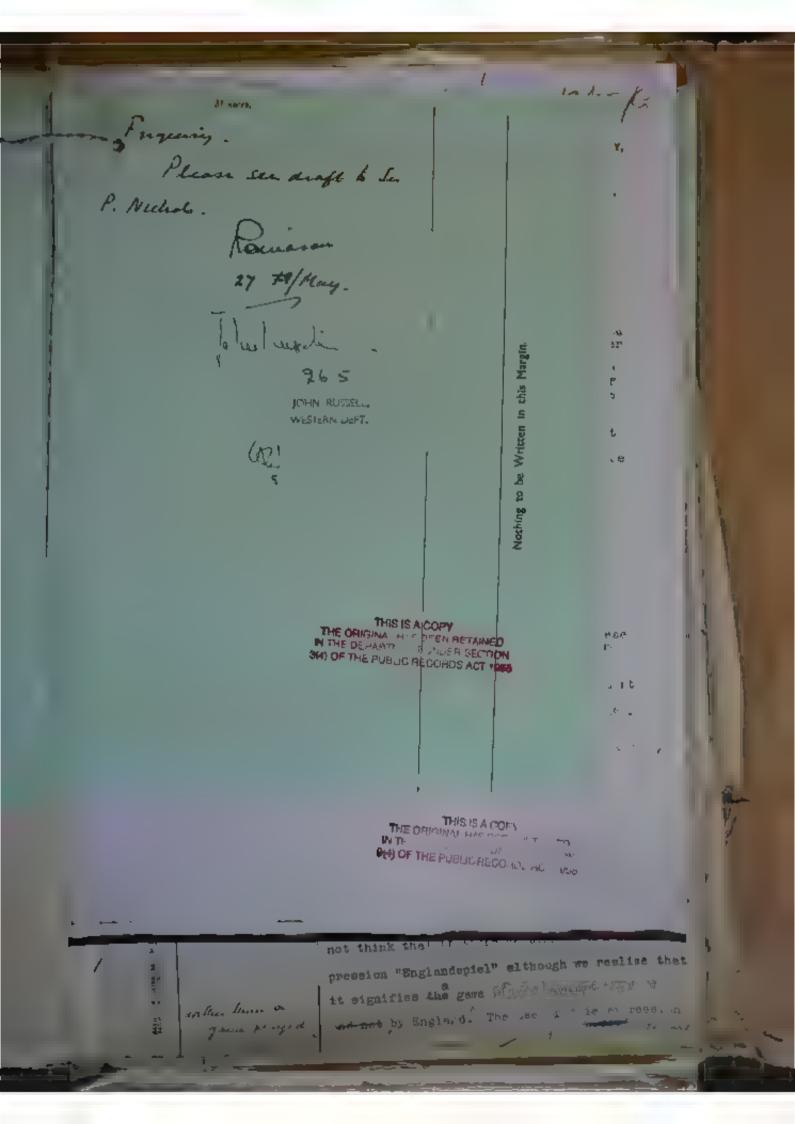
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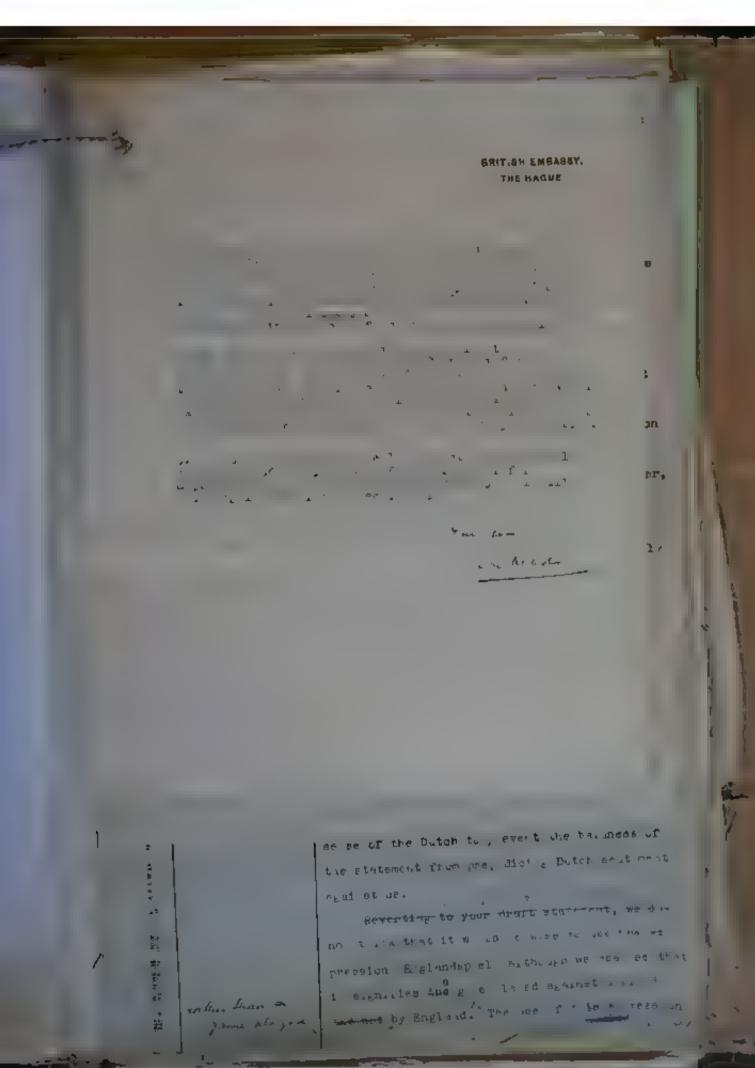


"Englowdspeel" in spile of Me Streets explanation "The operation against England" so certainly not the happiest description of the operations of the Netherlands Resistance Movement I wow subsuit a draft copy to Si P. Nichols. 13/April FOR BUSSING WESTERN D. 1 M. Bickull





23156 BRITISH EMBASSY, THE HADUE 7.5 111, 9.5. web applicable Carry, My dee Everyn of the area, I have now heatered the prestion of the "Anglards, 1 I till fe I tant, granted all the negections to a detailed state end that are outly ad in your letter of the 2-th Lines, a time to like to come which wa of the 25th kn to, a time is likely to come whim we cannot past over in silence accountains of the schery of the deliberate ascrifice of buter lives for purposes of our own. Size an occasion is likely to arise when the appear towards the art of the account, to meet such heard towards the art of this month. To neet such a situation I should like authority to issue a very short an emphatic but an informative statement on the lines of the enclose from the should of course refuse to be drawn into any further discussion of the matter. Mr. Danger has no retained the selborne Rejort. with the following cosmes orally by Golden't Pocker t is extreally proteful fo the loan of this libbility in the APONE at the time and it correspons to the position as aveilable to num. are the mainly to lack of later paterial gathered for morn wider so roes. time since the Actor is frotesh revis of evidence project the then on muly is of it reasons evidence to I. . . . serkourgh, Es. Secretary / seate r Degertment. THE OF . THIS "A COPY W The 9(4) OF Trep F 10 COND W pression Englandspiel" altrough we resided that it signifies the gwe ranged against a the not by England. The me of to be ex sees up enter to see a



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gir Phil!

FOREIGN OFFICE, 8.W. 1. 3156/1051/29 g) 20th April, 1949. TOP SE. RET my die 16 & Thank you for your letter 150/25/49 of 7th April with which you enclosed the draft of a statement which you would like to issue about the "Englandspiel". The draft seems adequate as it denies the two main ellegations contained in Van der Storp's pemphlet; namely that there was treachery on the British side, and a plot to exterminate Dutch petriots. We agree that you should lesue it when a suitable opportunity presents itself and I enclose for this purpose a slightly amended version of your draft. 5. There is one point about the wording. We do not think that it would be wise to use the expression "R glandspiel" olthough we realise that it signifies a game layed against England rather than a game played by Rugland. But the use of the expression by us might be taken to imply some sort of admission, and whilst we realise that the Germans outwitted us, there is no need to rub salt into the \*cound. Ye have therefore substituted appropriate phreses for "Englandapiel" where it appeared in your draft. 4. I think you will agree that the statement, though true, is in virtue of its bald and unsupported character, not very convincing. It is more than likely that doubts will be cast on the veracity of the statement and that we shall be pressed to amplify it. As we should not be able to do this without disclosing details which we wish to conceal, we should be presented to "rely on our newformers." refuse any further explanation and rely on our performance during the war and the good sense of the butch to prevent the baldness of the statement from prejudicing Dutch sentiment against us. Hayter's friends think that they can probably meet Danker's request for further information about the reasons why it was not appreciated in London that the S.O. c. organisation in Holland had come under enemy control. They hope to produce a draft statement soon. 6. As regards an official request from panker for Najor Bingham to appear before the Inquiry, Hayter's friends say that this would not be desirable. In any case he did not join the controlling staff of S.O.E. in London until lat April, 1943, by which time the German penetration had been achieved. Accusations against him personally are therefore buseless. trong is bucks ug. (C.A.E. Shuckburgh) Sir Philip Nichols, K.C.N.G., M.C., The Hague.

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The attention of his Majoriy's Coverment has been drawn to allegations which have appeared in certain sections of the Notherlands France, and more recently in pumphlet form, concerning the operations of the Notherlands Registance Howmant.

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the agenus drawned to them fell note seen, hands at once. It is of int rus, name to record that major Bingham, who has seen the subject of so many allegations by certain sections in willand, sonsidered that the stem of reception committees was most insecure and, when as joined the controlling staff of S.O.E., he gave instructions that any future exents are to be drouged "blind".

Paris, it must be admitted that staffs controlling clandes are on rations abroad base a paychological restarance to bring persuaded that their age to see ander every control, and there have been cores in the current staffs have gone on believing in the accuracy of their avents abroad when all the evidence cointed the ower way.

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POREICE OFFICE, S.T.1.

8th June, 1949.

(8 3156/1051/29 0) 10P SHORET

OUTFILE

my deal Phil,

As promised in paragraph 5 of my letter : 3156/1051/6 of the 20th April, we have again looked into the request by Mr. Darker that a statement should be made available to him explaining as far as possible the reasons why the London headquarters controlling 8.0.5. operations in the metherlands were not aware of the penetration of their groups by the Germans. I am sorry that there has been so much delay.

following categories:

## (s) Checks in wireless messages

Rach agent before being sent to the Metherlands was given two separate checks called "bluff" and "true" checks respectively. These were cypher groups one of which the agent was supposed to include in all messages. His instructions were that if captured and interrogated he was to give the Germans the "bluff" check, which would thus continue to be included in all messages; but he was, on no account to reveal the existence of the "true" check, which he was to omit from all messages sent after his capture.

### (b) The "hand-writing" test

This refers to the fact that an experienced wireless operator can sometimes set to know the personal characteristics of the transmitting operator at the other and of the link. It was thus possible that, if an agent were captured and replaced, the change in technique would be noticed at the receiving ord.

three reasons why the correct conclusion was not draw. Piret, many of the messages received from the etherlands were considerably mutilated and it was frequently impossible to tell whether checks had been emitted or not. Secondly, it was by no means an easy task to ensure that the agents really understood the purpose of the checks and in many cases the captured agents for ot to carry out the drill. Thirdly, the inclusion or emission of checks, as was shown in other theatres of 1.0.K. operations, was incomolusive as a test of the agent's reliability.

4. To far as the "hand-writing" is concerned, there are three points to make. First, in many cases the agents themselves continued to transmit under cerman control. Expert receiving operator to notice the difference. Thirdly although an electrical machine was devised daring the war to measure the physical characteristics of a transmitting measure the physical characteristics of a transmitting methoriands operation was going on.

5. Another point which contributed to the insecurity of the operations was the dystem, always preferred by agents, whereby they were not dropped "blind", but to reception committees already established in the Matherlands. This system was extensively used in other theatres by 3.0.E. Since most of the Patherlands reception committees were known to the Germans at an early stage, it followed that the agents dropped to them fell into enemy hands at once. 6. Finally, it must be admitted that staffs controlling clandestine operations abroad have a psychological resistance to being persuaded that their scents are under enemy control, and there have been cases in which such staffs have gone on believing in the socurity of their agents when all the evidence pointed the other way. 7. You can pass all of this on to Monsteur Danker if you wish. yours ever (C.A.E. Shuckburgh)

Gear he drap letter & Se Philip Nichol . Nacuro Designation, WEST DAY DOT THIS Z NOTHING THE ORIGINAL HAS BEEN RETAINED
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